stern disciplinary action is taken against the officers concerned. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in the matter.

Grounding of DHRUV helicopters

†3386. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Dhruv' helicopters have been grounded by the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are carrying out any research to further develop the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The 'Dhruv' Helicopters of the Army Aviation have been grounded with effect from 25th November, 2005. This was done as a precautionary measure after Dhruv helicopter J-4054 belonging to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) crashed due to loss of Tail Rotor Control near Siripuram, 150 Km.from Hyderabad.

The accident was investigated by a Board of Inquiry ordered by the HAL. Based on the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry, it was decided to carry out evaluation flights on selected Dhruv helicopters by experimental test pilots of the HAL and Army Aviation under the aegis of HAL. Two Army Aviation Dhruv helicopters Z-1110 and Z-1116 were flown for 31.30 and 30.45 hours respectively for these evaluation flights. Based on the report of these evaluation flights, Regional Centre of Military Air-worthiness had laid down following modifications/rectifications to be incorporated by the HAL:—

(i) Stiffening of Tail Boom attachment.

(ii) Installation of Tail Rotor Vibration monitoring unit.

(iii) Stiffening of Vertical Fin front spar.

(iv) Modification of Flight Data Recorder.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(v) Tail Gear Box housing modification.

(vi) New Tail Rotor blades to be subjected to qualification testing before installation.

The HAL is in the process of executing the above modifications/ rectifications in a phased manner.

Peace keeping operations by Indian Army

†3387. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of peace keeping operations carried out by Indian Army in various countries, till date;

(b) the total number of troops involved in these operations;

(c) the number of troops killed in these operations; and

(d) whether U.N. has to make any payments to the Indian Army for these operations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Indian Army has participated in 43 United Nations (UN) peace keeping operations in various countries till date. More than 80,000 Indian troops have participated in these operations.

(c) 115 Indian Army personnel have been killed in various UN peace keeping operations, till date.

(d) For the services provided by the Armed Forces contingents in UN peace keeping Missions, reimbursement is made by UN Headquarters to the Government towards troops cost, contingent owned equipment and for self sustaining items in accordance with the agreed terms. Some allowance is however paid directly to the personnel. The Government pays overseas allowance to the personnel as per the prescribed rates. However personnel sent as Military Observers in UN missions are paid remunerations directly by the UN as per their prescribed rates.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.